

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 226821

16

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EUR-08 AGR-05 AID-05 IGA-01

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-04 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 SCI-02 OMB-01 L-01

DODE-00 /057 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:JDMCLAUGHLIN:BB

APPROVED BY S/NM:DHERNST

NEA/ARN:PBULLEN (PHONE)

NEA/RA:TGRANT

----- 002890

R 152237Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226821

NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LE

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT ON LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT DESCRIBING THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN LEBANON. PAPER WAS PREPARED FOR USE DURING FY 1976 PROGRAM REVIEW. WE INVITE MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE ASSESSMENT AND CABLE ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MISSION MAY HAVE. MISSION REPRESENTATIVE AT NEW DELHI REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS ASSESSMENT WITH WASHINGTON REPS AT CONFERENCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SIGNIFICANCE: IN THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT, LEBANON IS POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 226821

BOTH AS A PROCESSOR AND AS A TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR OPIUM,

BUT THE CURRENT PROBLEM IS PRIMARILY HASHISH WHICH IS GROWN AND SHIPPED IN LARGE QUANTITIES. THE OPIUM POPPY IS NOT CURRENTLY GROWN IN LEBANON, AT LEAST NOT IN SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS; HOWEVER, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT LIMITED AMOUNTS OF HEROIN ARE BEING PRODUCED IN LEBANON FROM OPIUM GUM AND MORPHINE BASE OF TURKISH ORIGIN. DESPITE REPORTS THAT OPIUM TRAFFIC THROUGH LEBANON, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE PORT OF BEIRUT, HAS INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS, THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED APPARENTLY ARE SMALL. HOWEVER, WITH SMUGGLING ROUTES TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

AND TO EUROPE AND THE US WELL ESTABLISHED, LEBANON WILL CONTINUE TO BE A POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT TRANSIT COUNTRY.

PROBLEM: THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN DEALING WITH LEBANON IS ITS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND ITS MULTINATIONAL POPULATION WHICH MAKE CONTROL EFFORTS DIFFICULT. THE COMPARATIVELY LONG COASTLINE, THE HIGH VOLUME OF MARINE AND AIR TRAFFIC THROUGH THE PORT OF BEIRUT, AND THE LONG BORDER WITH SYRIA MAKE SMUGGLING RELATIVELY EASY. NONETHELESS, LEBANESE ANTI-TRAFFICKING MEASURES ARE RATED "GOOD". LEBANESE LAW PROHIBITS THE GROWTH, MANUFACTURE, TRANSPORT, SALE, AND POSSESSION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS. LEBANESE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO INDICATED AN INTEREST IN TIGHTENING THEIR INSPECTION PROCEDURES. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND GENDARMERIE IS ALSO GOOD IN MOST AREAS, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY LITTLE COORDINATION BETWEEN CUSTOMS AND THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

PROSPECTS: HASHISH WILL CONTINUE TO BE LEBANON'S PRIMARY NARCOTICS PROBLEM, BUT THE LOW VOLUME OF OPIATES MANUFACTURED IN AND TRANSITING THE COUNTRY HAS ONLY LIMITED SIGNIFICANCE. WITH CONTROL MEASURES BEING STRENGTHENED ELSEWHERE IN THE NEAR EAST, HOWEVER, LEBANON COULD BECOME AN IMPORTANT TRANSIT POINT FOR NARCOTICS, ESPECIALLY IF OPIUM TRAFFICKERS DECIDE TO SHIFT THEIR OPERATIONS TO THE PERSIAN GULF AREA. THERE IS CURRENTLY NO EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A SHIFT IS IMMINENT. THERE CONTINUE TO BE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT SOME CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 226821

OPIUM IS REACHING LEBANON VIA THE PERSIAN GULF EMIRATES. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG TRAFFIC, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE226821
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDMCLAUGHLIN:BB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740293-0982
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741045/aaaablww.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT ON LEBANON
TAGS: SNAR, LE
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005